

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount

The Narrow Gate

Matthew 7:12-23

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So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Matthew 7:12-23, continued

You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:12-23, continued

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

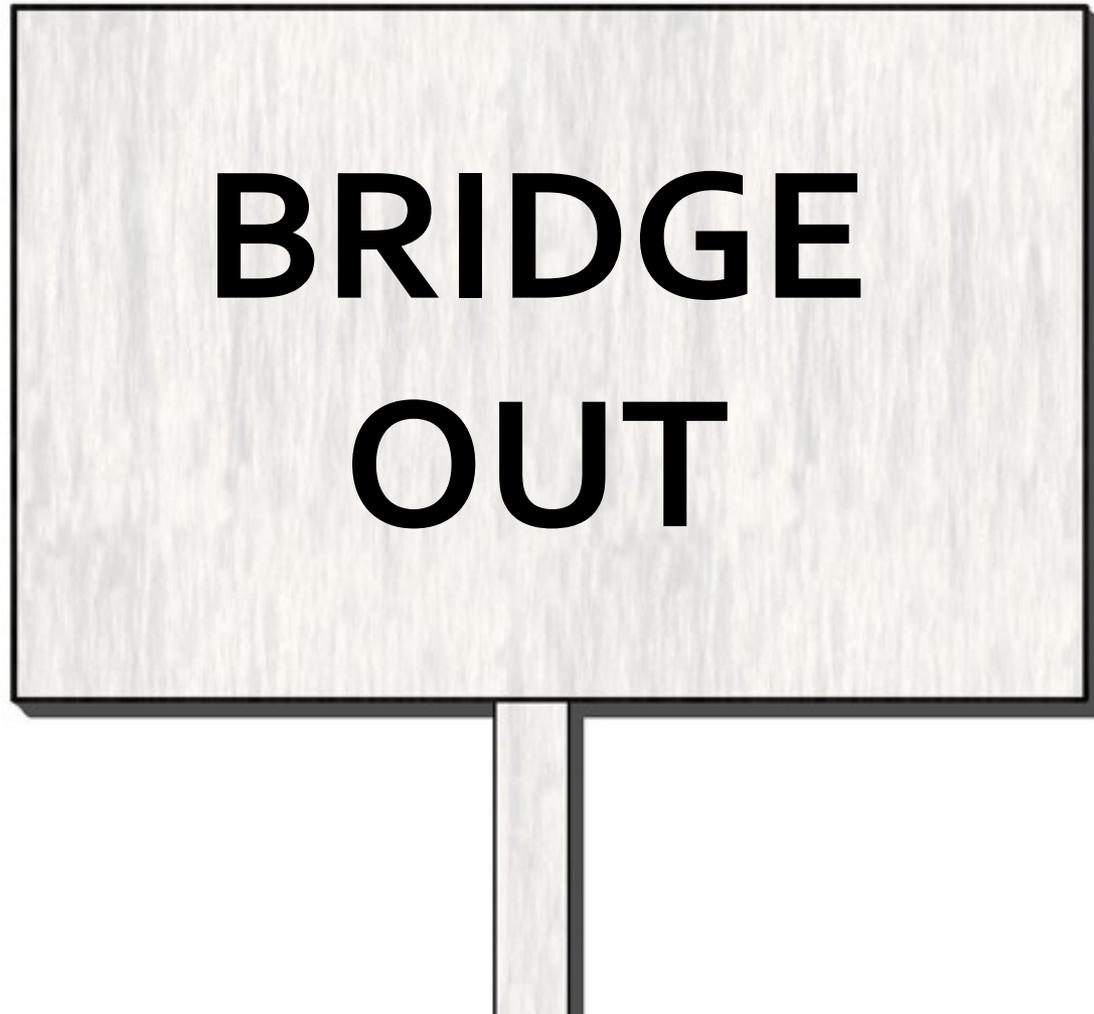
Three concerns of our text

- The narrow gate
- The true prophet
- The true disciple

1. The Narrow Gate, 7:12-14

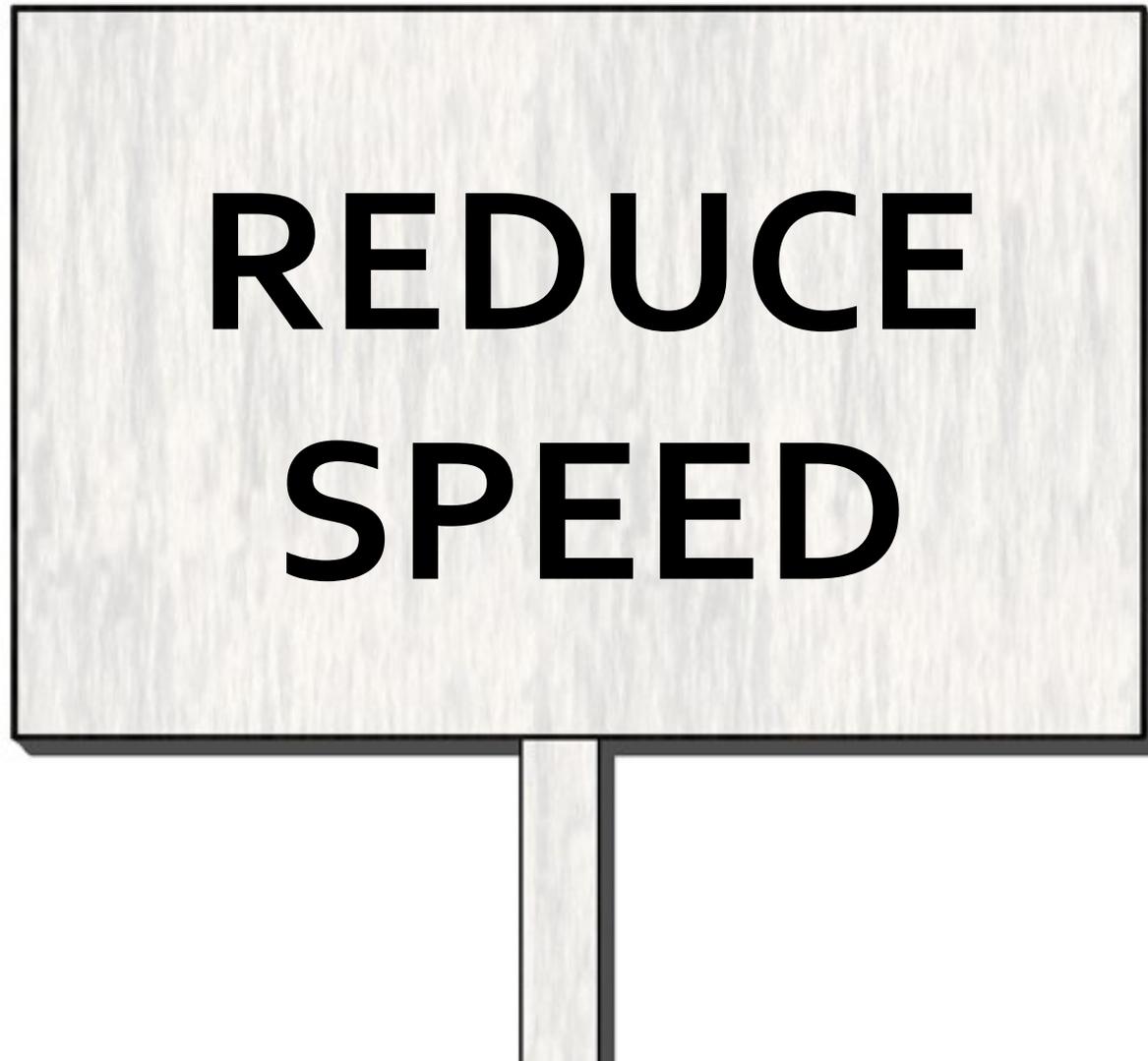
- Image of God
- Total depravity (Verderbttheit)
- Romans 3:10-12: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."
- Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Three Signs



**BRIDGE
OUT**

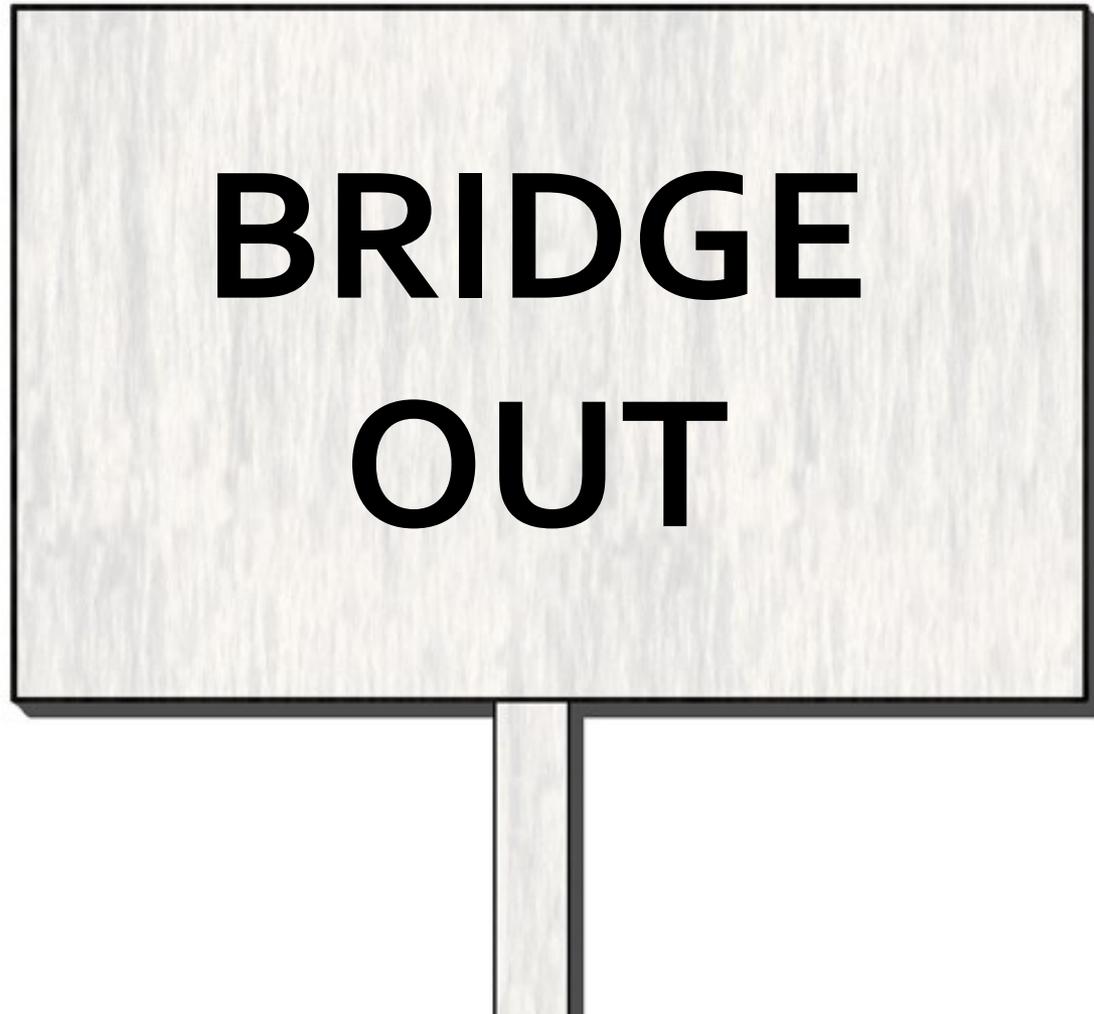
Three Signs



Three Signs



Three Signs



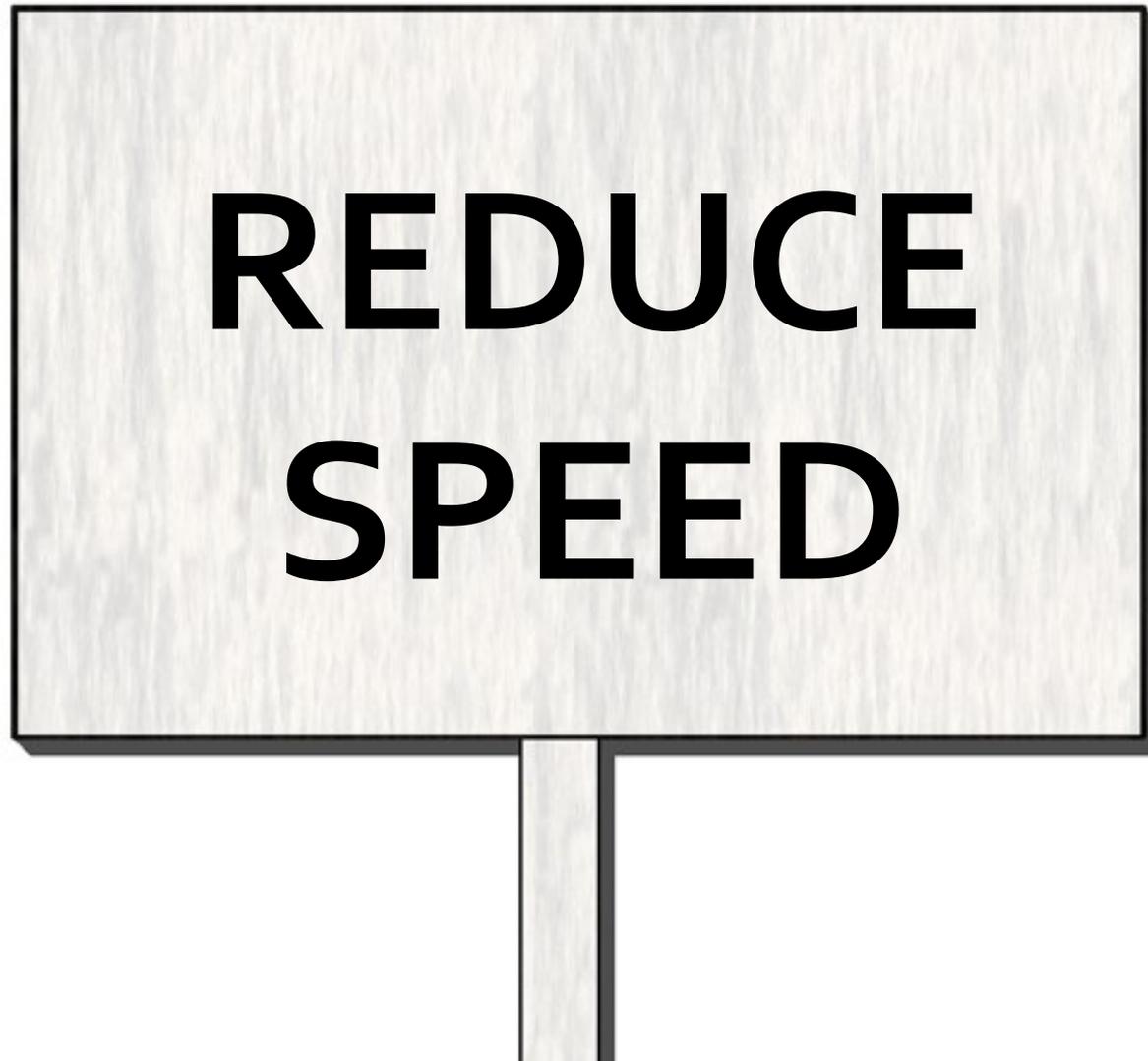
Three Signs



BRIDGE

tired

Three Signs



Three Signs

REDUCE



Three Signs

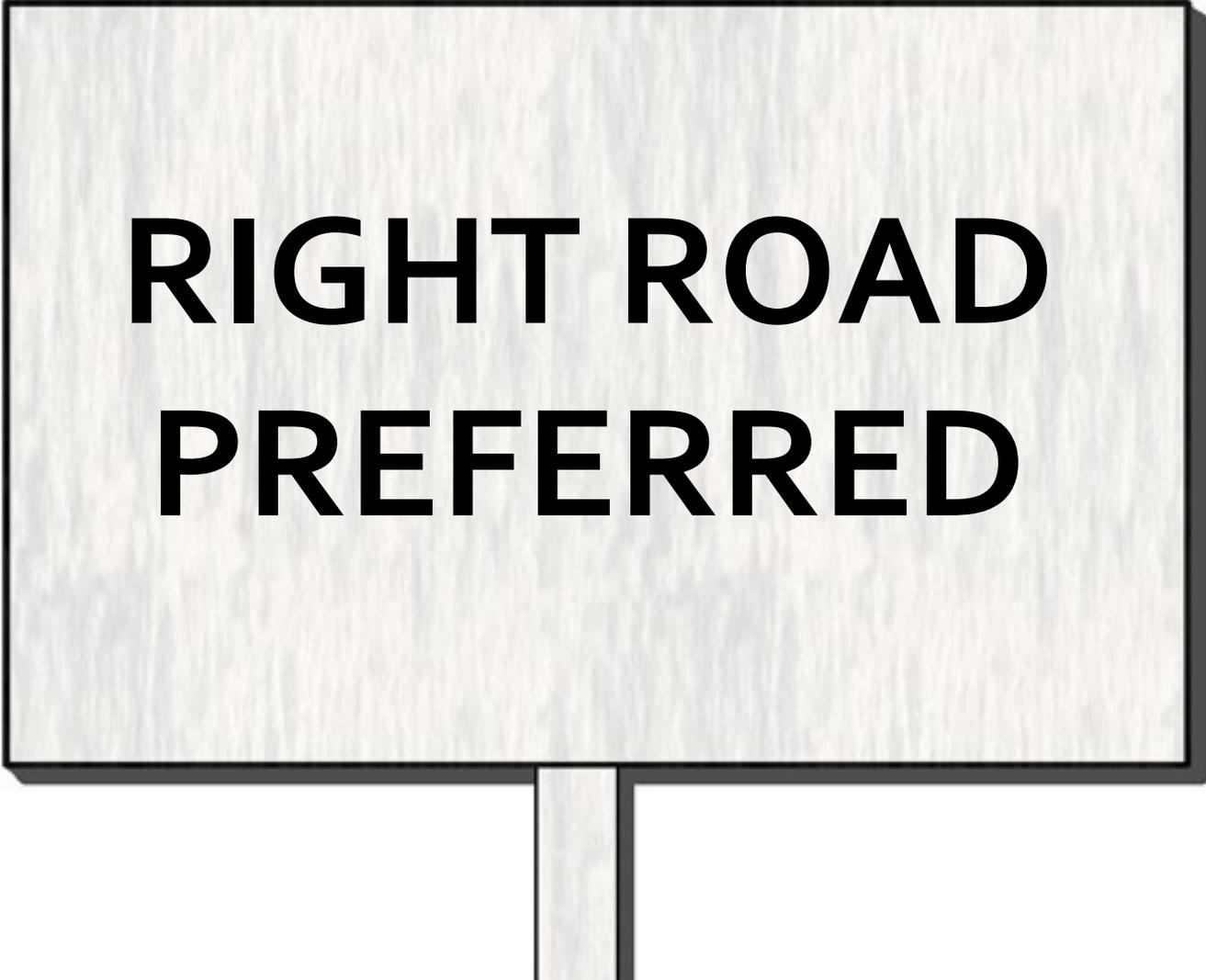


Three Signs



**RIGHT ROAD
RECOMMENDED**

Three Signs



**RIGHT ROAD
PREFERRED**

Three Signs

A wooden signpost with a rectangular sign. The sign has a light brown wood grain texture and a dark border. The text on the sign is in bold, black, uppercase letters, arranged in five lines. The signpost is a simple vertical wooden post.

**RIGHT ROAD:
ONE OF MANY
ALTERNATIVES
THAT MAY OR MAY NOT
BE OF HELP TO YOU**

2. The True Prophet, 7:15-20

- *Pseudoprophetes*. A prophet is false because his message is false.
- Ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing.
- "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit."
- The true gospel permeates lives.
- Including the life of the preacher.

A true prophet

- Preaches the Word:
- Hebrews 4:12-13: “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

A true prophet

- Depends on the Spirit of God:
- **1 Corinthians 2:12:** “What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.”
- **John 16:14:** “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

A true prophet

- Listens to the body of Christ:
- Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
- James 1:19: "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."
- 1 Cor. 14:26: "When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation ... Let all things be done for edification."

3. The True Disciple, 7:21-23

- How can a prophet be saved?
- How can anyone be saved?
- By hearing the Word and turning in repentance and faith to Christ.
- First three Beatitudes: poor in spirit, mourning for sin, meekness and surrender to God.
- Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We are not saved by:

- **Saying words, prayers, or titles to God:**
- **Saying “Lord” alone does not save.**
- **Works do not save, but if the true gospel is truly believed, then it permeates the life and heart of the believer.**
- **Service done in the name of Christ also does not save. Three things are mentioned: prophesied in Christ’s name, cast out demons, did miraculous works.**

Jonathan Edwards on True Movements of God, 1 John 4

1. God is at work when a person's esteem for the true Jesus is raised.
2. God is at work when Satan's kingdom is attacked.
3. God is at work when the people come to love the Scripture more.
4. God is at work when men are led away from falsehood into truth.
5. God is at work when there is an increase in love for God and for man.